

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SWF-02 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SP-03

STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-15

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 584

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 2446

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, NATO

SUBJECT: US-EC RELATIONS - CONSULTATIONS

REF: BONN 6405 AND LONDON 5013

1. SUPPLEMENTING WHAT HAS BEEN REPORTED IN REFTELS, POLITICAL DIRECTOR DAVIGNON TOLD ME TODAY THAT THE NINE'S CONCEPT OF FUTURE US-EC CONSULTATIONS HAS BEGUN TO CRYSTALLIZE.

2. HE SAID THAT IT WOULD BE INADVISABLE TO ESTABLISH A LEGAL OR FORMAL FRAMEWORK THAT SEEKS TO DEFINE PRECISELY THE
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CIRCUMSTANCES CALLING RO CONSULTATIONS. RATHER, THE EC

PRESIDENCY WOULD BE GIVEN THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR INFORMING THE US OF STEPS THE NINE WISH TO TAKE THAT MIGHT AFFECT US INTERESTS AND FOR SOLICITING US VIEWS. THIS CHANNEL WOULD BE COMPLEMENTED BY CONTINUING BILATERAL CONTACTS BETWEEN THE US AND INDIVIDUAL EC MEMBERS. WHEN I ASKED HOW SUCH A SCHEME MIGHT BE AFFECTED BY CHANGES IN EC PRESIDENCY, DAVIGNON SAID THAT EACH INCUMBENT WOULD BE OBLIGED TO IMPLEMENT THE NINE'S DECISION AND WOULD MOREOVER BE ANSWERABLE TO THE OTHER EIGHT.

3. DAVIGNON POSITED A COROLLARY: THE US MUST OF COURSE BRIEF THE NINE OF THOSE OF ITS POLICIES WITH WHICH PLANS OF THE NINE WOULD INTERFERE, I.E., THE US MUST PROVIDE A CREDIBLE RATIONALE FOR OBJECTING TO SUCH PLANS.

4. DAVIGNON ENDED WITH A PLEA FOR REMOVING THE SUBJECT OF US-EC CONSULTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC ARENA, SO AS TO ALLOW A RETURN TO PRIVACY, INFORMALITY, DIPLOMACY AND PRAGMATISM. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE US AND THE NINE WILL GIVE THIS CONCEPT A FAIR TRIAL.

5. COMMENT. DAVIGNON'S COMMENTS ECHO SENTIMENTS RECENTLY EXPRESSED TO THE DCM BY FONOFF CHEF DE CABINET NOTERDAEME, WHO WOULD LIKE TO MODEL US-EC CONTACTS ON THE TRADITIONAL LINES OF BILATERAL DIPLOMACY. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE BELGIANS ARE LOOKING FOR WAYS TO STILL THE FUROR AND BRING THE FRENCH INTO CLOSER HARMONY WITH BOTH THE US AND THE EC. STRAUSS-KHAN

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